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JUN -8 1922

**THE WOMAN WHO WALKED ALONE**

Photoplay in 7 reels

Adapted by Will M. Ritchey from the story by John Colton

Directed by George Melford

Author of the photoplay (under Sec. 62)  
Famous Players-Lasky Corporation of the U. S.

*Woman*  
"THE CAT-THAT WALKED ALONE".

*Famous*

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The story opens seven years ago.

A large crowd had congregated outside of Westminster Abbey, in London to catch a glimpse of Richard, tenth Earl of Leicester, and Iris Adelaide Victoria Chapman, the nineteen year old daughter of the bankrupt Marquis Chapmans, who has just wed. The Earl of Leicester was over fifty years of age and Iris was virtually the victim of a bargain made between the impoverished Marquis and the old Earl.

Iris was a good sportsman, however, feared no man and possessed a Spartan courage. She made her sacrifice with a smile and faced the future stoically, promising the Earl that she would be faithful to him as a wife, but that he must also keep his side of the bargain and not seek to rule her, but let her continue in those hobbies which appealed to her, such as all outdoor sports, gambling, etc.

In the crowd that had gathered near the church, was Clement Gault, a man of twenty-five years, who possessed thirty pounds, a ticket to South Africa and his older brother's blessing. As the bride and groom came under the awning from the church door to the curb, the crowd surged nearer and it would have been impossible for them to have reached their motor car, had not Gault with a sweep of his arm, cleared the passage to the waiting car, which the Earl and his bride then entered. In the interval, however, she had looked into Gault's eyes and from her car she turned and thanked him with her eyes, then, as an afterthought, threw him a lily from her bouquet. He caught it and a little later stopped, took out his pocket book and placed it carefully between the covers. That night Gault took the train for South Africa.

Five years later, Iris, Countess of Leicester, is one of the most popular beauties and hostesses of England. She is still reckless in the hunting field, daring as a sportsman and an inveterate gambler with unflinching luck, but no scandal has thus far been entered against her name. Jealous, suspicious at all times, however, the old Earl has her constantly spied upon, promising to pay the servants big rewards for any evidence of faithlessness on her part. But she

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has kept her part of the bargain unflinchingly and the Earl's efforts to trap her are in vain.

Fate and circumstances are due to play a part, however. At the end of the hunting season, Iris gives a house party to announce the engagement of Muriel, Champneys, her sister, to Sir Basil Deere. Muriel is beautiful, but unlike Iris, lacks character and courage. She is marrying for riches, although Iris believes her to be marrying for love. Muriel has been carrying on a clandestine affair with Otis Yearlley, a penniless young scoundrel. Iris has invited him to the party, knowing nothing of the affair.

Iris is unusually gay at the party. She ties a Spanish shawl about her hips and dances the fandango on a table, despite the jealous, quarrelsome Richard, who drinks heavily and breeds considerably. Late in the evening, Iris is spinning and winning heavily at the gaming table. She sees Yearlley appear in the doorway and beckon to Muriel, who sits nearby. She also observes Muriel start and then slip out to join Yearlley, and wonders.

In a little ante room Yearlley shows his true colors by demanding that Muriel secure for him immediately five thousand pounds, threatening if she does not do so, to expose her to her fiancée by showing letters she has written to him. Muriel pleads in vain. The gaming breaks up at three A.M. and the guests retire. The Earl, still sullen and longing for a chance to compromise Iris in some way, also retires. Muriel, distraught and panicky, comes to Iris and upon being questioned tells her of Yearlley's demand and threat. Iris promises to secure the letters and pay Yearlley nothing.

After all have retired, she slips from her boudoir and down the hall to Yearlley's room to secure the letters. Her maid informs the Earl, who hurries to Yearlley's door. In the room, Iris is just getting the letters when Yearlley, awakening, sees her purpose and locks the door. The Earl pounds on the door, which Iris opens. He loudly accuses her, summons all the guests and makes a formal accusation. Iris, reluctant to expose Muriel, will say nothing in her defence and he tells her to get out. Within the hour, Iris has packed her bag, taken the one thousand pounds, her



wings of the evening, and departed. Her parents hear of the disgrace and ungratefully close the door upon her. Cast out by husband, parents, shunned by her selfish, shallow sister and an exile from society, Iris takes a map of the world, closes her eyes, picks a spot at random, opens her eyes and sees she has chosen South Africa. She cries to herself:

"I will be the cat who walks by itself, in the wild, wet wood—and all places will be alike to me!"

A retrospect to the adventures of Clement Gaunt, shows that he has gone on to South Africa and finally prospered and has become foreman of a great cattle Krall. His employer, a Boer named Schmiedeman, swears by him. But the Boer's wife has fallen in love with him. She resents his laugh when she told him he pleased her and has avowed to possess him or die. One night, she comes to him while he sits outside his cabin by the fire and putting herself in his arms, clings to him. Her husband comes and finds Gaunt struggling in her grasp. The Dutchman springs at him and there is a struggle. The woman shoots and kills her husband. Incensed at Gaunt's refusal to accept her affections, she accuses him of the murder. Gaunt flees, knowing conviction is sure if he is captured, with a price on his head and the South African mounted police on his trail, he goes far north into the wild foothills of the mountains of the Moon, builds himself a shack and prepares to isolate himself until the chase dies down.

After two years of isolation he ventures into civilization for supplies. In a London newspaper, two years old, which was wrapped around a parcel, he sees an account of the Earl of Leicester's divorce from Iris. He thinks of the day when she was wed and takes out the lily which he still carried in his pocketbook. With memories revived, he determines to risk all again to live among his fellow men. He starts once more for civilization.

About the time Gaunt fled into the wilderness, a woman from nowhere opened up a half-way house on the Carman road in the veldt country. This became the resort of the South African Mounted Policemen. She told no one who she was, or where she came from. Josk McKinney, chief of the mounted asked her to marry him but she

refused. When he tried to kiss her she slapped his face and when he made another attempt, she got his gun and made him kiss each man present. He swore to get even, but he admired her more than ever and they were capital friends despite his vow. She was their favorite, their mother, their sister. She could ride as good as they, shoot as straight and could gamble with the best of them. There was much speculation about some tragedy in her past, but she answered no questions. This woman was Iris.

When Gaunt starts back, determined to live with men, despite the danger, he comes to the half-way house and is admitted. By the fire sits a woman. Gaunt recognizes that woman as Iris. Having himself he asks for food and drink. Moshe, the Ruffler servant who has admitted him, has recognized him as the hunted man, he being employed at that time at Schmoldman's. Secretly Moshe informs Iris of the man's identity and she, thinking him a bad man and deserving of punishment, tells Moshe to notify the police, who are encamped some miles away and she will detain Gaunt until they come. To detain him, she suggests a game of cards. He accepts the challenge and the cards are dealt. As they play, Gaunt loses and finally gives up his last gold coin. Meantime, McKinney has gotten Iris' message and started with his men for the half-way house, bent on a hanging party.

Gaunt's sportmanship in the game interests Iris. She looks at him closely and despite the rumors about him, likes him. She asks who he is. Gaunt tells her they have met before and then recalls to her the incident, showing her the lifeless flower she had tossed to him the day of her wedding.

"Did you or did you not shoot the Bear Schmoldman?" she questions, realizing the police will soon arrive. Gaunt swears he did not. Iris, impressed by his frankness, believes him and tells him what she has done—that he must go. She tries to give him the bag of gold, but he curtly refuses and then, unnoticed by him she slips it into his pocket. Gaunt rides away into the night. McKinney and his men arrive and Iris tells them she was unable to keep the man—that he had gone, and misdirects them as to his route.

Gaunt, riding northerly is twenty minutes on his way when he discovers the bag of gold in his pocket. Seized with anger he wheels about and dashes back to the half-way

house. McKinney and his men are about to leave, when there is a crash of breaking glass and the bag of gold comes through the window. McKinney and his men rush from the room, give chase, catch Gaunt and prepare for a hanging. Iris mounts her horse and dashes in pursuit, reaching the scene of the hanging just in time. Declaring Gaunt is not guilty, she demands that his life be spared. McKinney refuses. She pleads. McKinney thinks of his vow to get even with her, but he is a sportsman. He makes a bargain. They will shoot for a bulseye. If he wins, Gaunt hangs. If Iris wins, he will give Gaunt twenty-four hours' start, but Iris must marry him. She accepts the proposition. They shoot at a mark one hundred yards distant. Iris wins. McKinney calls the police Parson and the marriage is performed.

McKinney and his men ride away and Iris and Gaunt turn towards the half-way house. She demands that he leave and ride for his life. He refuses to go without her, declaring she is his wife and he will not leave alone. Baffled by his persistent refusal to leave without her, she tells him to sleep in front of the fire. Iris does not sleep, but Gaunt does. Two hours later, she descends the stairs, awakens him and tells him he must start, as every moment counts for his safety. He again refuses to start without her. Seeing he is immovable, she agrees to go a distance with him.

Some miles on they stop and Iris declares she must return. He refuses to go on without her and takes her horse's bridle. She whips up her horse and the animal plunges. Gaunt loses his balance and pitches headlong down a ravine. He is unconscious when she rouses him and does not revive. Darkness gathers swiftly and she collects wood and builds a fire. They are alone on the great waste stretches of a wild border of civilization. She sees two eyes gleaming at her from beyond the edge of the rays of firelight, then two more, then more and more. The jackals have come. She knows she must start moving and keep in motion as the jackals will not attack a moving body. She begins to dance and as the hours wear away, continues to dance. She remembers the night of the house party when she had danced the fandango on the table, with Richard, the old Earl glowering jealously at her. How different was this wild dance for life.

A faint glimmer comes in the east and still she dances. One of the pairs of eyes



...non mother, then another and as dawn comes, all have gone. She sinks down beside Gaunt, utterly exhausted and asleep. Gradually, he revives and finds her beside him.

It is thus that McKinney and his men find them, a little later, after trailing them half the night. McKinney has in his pocket the last testament of Schneiderman's wife, who, dying, has feared to face death with the sin of unconfessed murder and had freed Gaunt from all complicity in the crime, claiming the deed as her own.

McKinney informs Gaunt of the good news and joyfully he awakens Iris and tells her. Their incredulity, their happiness, their wonder, McKinney watches with a jovial Irish smile, but when their lips meet for the first time, he turns his face away. McKinney is a sportsman!

"Never again will she walk by herself, that cat who walks alone!" he mutters.

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JUN -8 1922

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THE WOMAN WHO WALKED ALONE (7 reels)

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